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Job Vacancies, Australia

Results of the quarterly Job Vacancies Survey containing estimates of job vacancies classified by industry, sector and state/territory.

Reference period August 2023

Released 28/09/2023

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Key statistics

Seasonally adjusted estimates for August 2023:

- Total job vacancies were 390,400, a decrease of 8.9% from May 2023.
- Private sector vacancies were 346,600, a decrease of 9.2% from May 2023.
- Public sector vacancies were 43,800, a decrease of 6.3% from May 2023.

Job vacancies, public and private sector

		Aug-2023 ('000)	Quarterly change (%)	Yearly change (%)
Trend	Private sector	354.7	-5.4	-13.5
	Public sector	44.7	-2.8	0.0
	Private and public sectors	399.4	-5.1	-12.2
Seasonally Adjusted	Private sector	346.6	-9.2	-16.5
	Public sector	43.8	-6.3	-3.1
	Private and public sectors	390.4	-8.9	-15.2
Original	Private sector	358.3	-2.6	-16.6
	Public sector	44.1	-6.5	-3.2
	Private and public sectors	402.3	-3.0	-15.3

Survey impacts and changes

Other measures of labour demand

In addition to Job Vacancies, there are a number of non-ABS indicators that measure labour demand using alternative concepts, sources and methods. These are also widely used as leading indicators of employment. Prominent examples include the ANZ-Indeed Australian Job Ads Index, the SEEK Employment Report, and Jobs and Skills Australia's Internet Vacancy Index.

Measures of job vacancies and job advertisements will differ for a number of reasons:

- Job vacancies includes jobs for which job advertisements are undertaken but also includes jobs where other recruitment approaches are exclusively used, such as word of mouth or social media. For example, jobs in the Accommodation and food services industry are more likely to be advertised on social media or in shop front signs. These jobs were one of the key drivers of the boom in job vacancies during the pandemic.
- Job vacancies is a count of every position advertised within a single notice, while some job advertisements may be used to fill multiple positions.
- Most job advertisement series collect the number of jobs advertised over a period of time, whereas job vacancies are measured on one particular day. The difference between these two measures could be exacerbated during a time of severe labour shortages. That is, if a job is vacant longer, there is more chance it will be vacant on the reference date, yet it would still only count for one job ad.

New approach for estimating the contribution of micro-employers

In the next release, for November quarter 2023, the ABS will implement a modelled

approach to account for the contribution of employers with less than five employees.

The model-based approach will reduce the quarterly response burden on these businesses, who are less likely to have job vacancies. Analysis of their contribution over time has also shown that their contribution to estimates can be effectively modelled.

In implementing this new approach, the ABS plans to collect information from a full sample of micro-employers every eighth quarter, to review the performance of the model. However, in the event of a major shock to the labour market (for example, a pandemic), a full sample would be run more frequently.

Additional information will be provided in the November 2023 release, on 10 January.

Job vacancies over time

Job vacancies decreased by 8.9% (37,900 vacancies) in the three months to August 2023 (seasonally adjusted). Despite this being the fifth consecutive quarterly decrease, the level of job vacancies in August 2023 remained elevated. Job vacancies were 71.5% higher than they were in February 2020, prior to the start of the pandemic. The ongoing high level of vacancies reflected the continuing labour shortages in many industries.

Job vacancies, seasonally adjusted

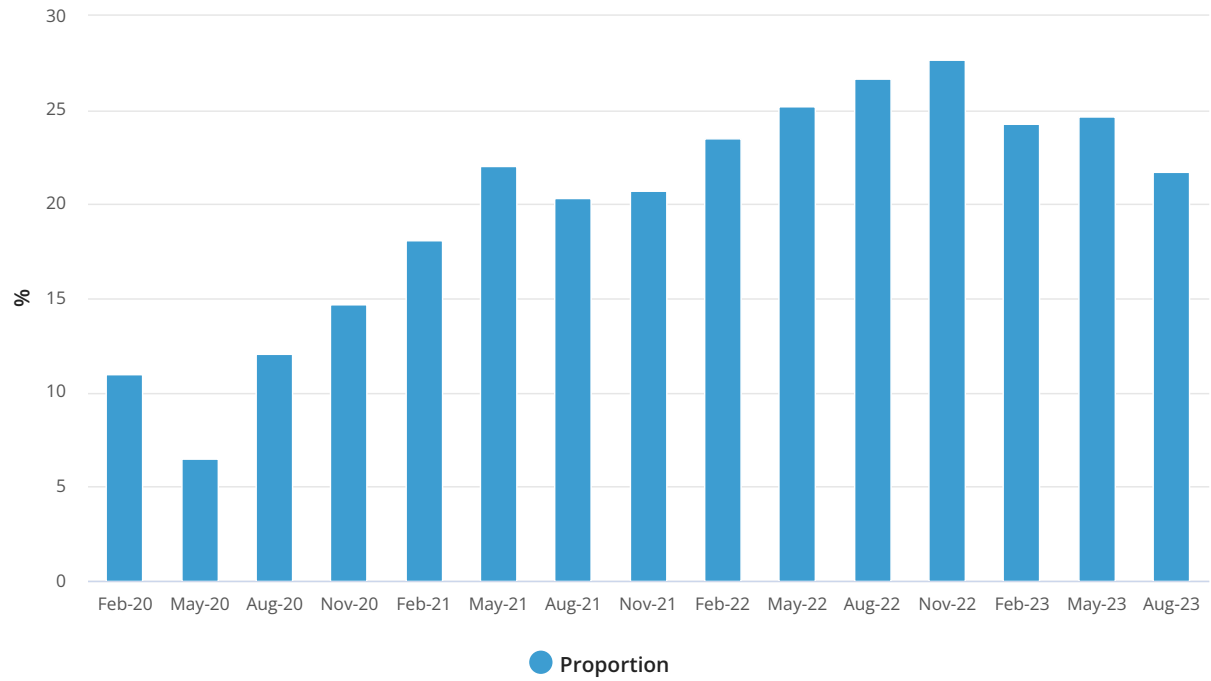


The Job Vacancies Survey was suspended between August 2008 to August 2009 (inclusive).

Businesses reporting vacancies

The number of businesses reporting at least one vacancy shows the extent of the acute reduction in labour demand in May 2020, as well as the subsequent change since then. In February 2020, just prior to the main effects of COVID-19, the proportion of businesses reporting at least one vacancy was 11.0%. In May 2020, a much lower proportion of businesses reported at least one vacancy (6.5%). By November 2022, this had increased to 27.7%. In line with the decrease in the number of vacancies over recent quarters, the proportion of businesses reporting at least one vacancy also decreased to 21.7% in August 2023.

Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies, Australia



Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies, states and territories (%)

	Aug-21	Nov-21	Feb-22	May-22	Aug-22	Nov-22	Feb-23	May-23	Aug-23
New South Wales	19.4	22.3	24.2	26.2	28.9	28.0	27.4	26.5	26.5
Victoria	18.8	21.2	22.9	27.3	27.1	29.2	25.4	24.7	24.7
Queensland	26.9	20.0	26.0	22.8	26.7	28.3	22.6	25.4	25.4
South Australia	13.1	14.7	17.6	17.3	19.7	18.4	16.0	19.4	19.4
Western Australia	21.5	19.5	22.4	28.3	25.2	29.4	21.6	23.1	23.1
Tasmania	15.1	18.5	19.2	19.1	14.0	22.0	15.6	14.5	14.5
Northern Territory	20.8	23.1	27.8	31.6	36.5	35.6	26.4	23.4	23.4
Australian Capital Territory	9.4	13.4	16.6	13.7	15.5	13.7	16.0	17.1	17.1
Australia	20.3	20.7	23.5	25.2	26.7	27.7	24.3	24.7	24.7

Proportion of businesses reporting vacancies, industry (%)

	Aug-21	Nov-21	Feb-22	May-22	Aug-22	Nov-22	Feb-23	May-
Mining	18.1	17.1	27.8	24.8	19.3	27.1	26.0	
Manufacturing	22.9	24.9	29.6	22.3	25.9	23.8	26.8	
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	9.9	21.3	39.2	34.5	13.1	31.0	25.2	
Construction	23.3	21.5	24.3	30.3	28.5	28.5	24.2	
Wholesale trade	22.3	20.5	29.5	16.8	26.1	19.9	23.4	
Retail trade	21.4	15.9	16.6	17.7	23.8	31.5	23.0	
Accommodation and food services	18.3	30.9	32.4	34.0	42.5	45.3	41.7	
Transport, postal and warehousing	15.7	17.3	22.4	22.6	25.8	21.5	16.6	
Information media and telecommunications	15.9	15.5	19.8	26.7	20.4	29.0	21.4	
Financial and insurance services	10.3	5.5	14.8	20.0	8.2	21.7	7.4	
Rental, hiring and real estate services	19.3	15.1	20.1	25.2	27.3	26.1	13.9	
Professional, scientific and technical services	15.4	16.6	17.6	18.0	19.4	24.8	19.6	
Administrative and support services	29.8	30.5	36.2	38.3	32.8	36.8	26.7	
Public administration and safety	29.8	27.5	33.5	37.9	37.4	35.0	43.3	
Education and training	9.7	9.1	9.9	14.6	8.3	7.7	28.9	
Health care and social assistance	21.2	26.7	18.9	26.7	33.4	17.5	30.8	
Arts and recreation services	9.3	6.7	8.3	10.2	4.7	9.3	18.6	
Other services	28.1	25.4	32.7	32.7	34.4	36.7	25.3	
All industries	20.3	20.7	23.5	25.2	26.7	27.7	24.3	

Reasons for vacancies (%)

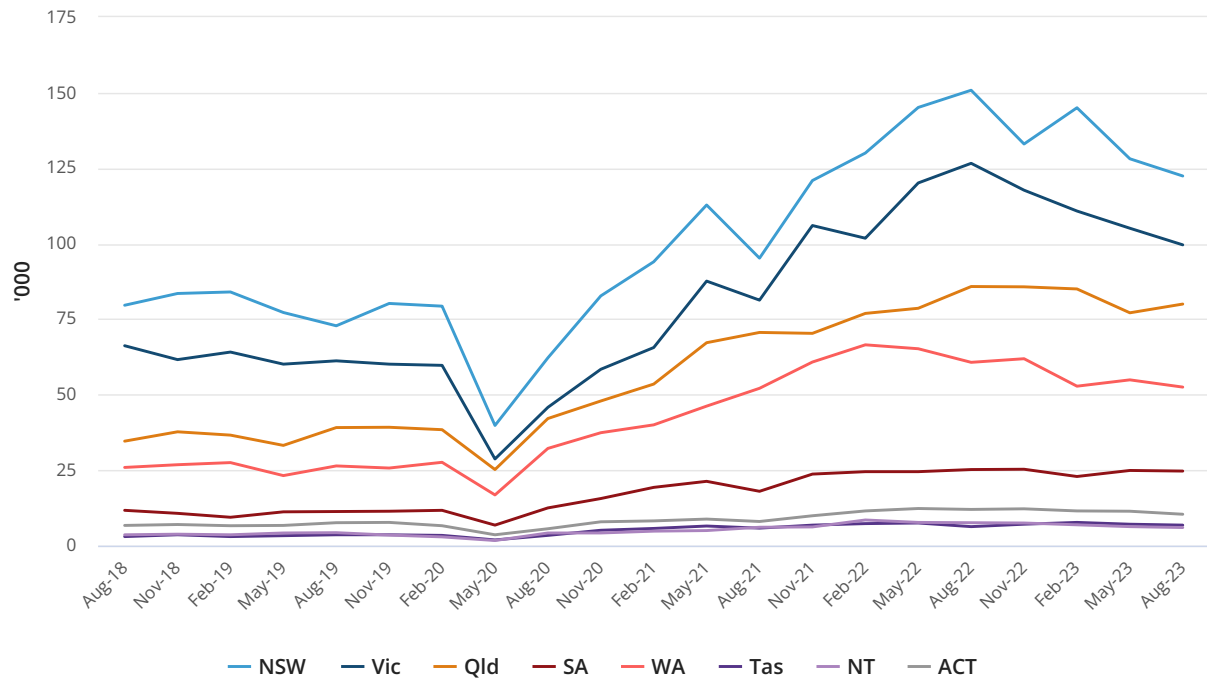
	Aug-21	Nov-21	Feb-22	May-22	Aug-22	Nov-22	Feb-23	May-23	A
Replacement/ resignations	75.1	77.4	79.7	80.4	78.2	77.1	79.6	77.6	
Increased workload	42.3	45.9	47.8	47.0	45.4	44.0	44.0	39.7	
Expansion of business	25.3	25.7	25.9	27.8	27.8	25.6	26.7	26.4	
Restructure	15.7	13.8	13.9	14.4	13.2	12.8	13.7	14.5	
Relocation	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.5	
Seasonal	11.4	19.0	12.0	11.6	14.1	18.1	12.3	11.4	
Special event	2.5	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.2	1.8	1.8	
Takeover	1.4	1.6	2.0	1.0	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.6	
Other	11.8	12.0	12.9	8.6	7.1	6.4	9.8	8.2	

Businesses may have multiple reasons for reporting job vacancies

Proportions are of businesses that reported at least one vacancy

States and territories

Job vacancies, states and territories, original

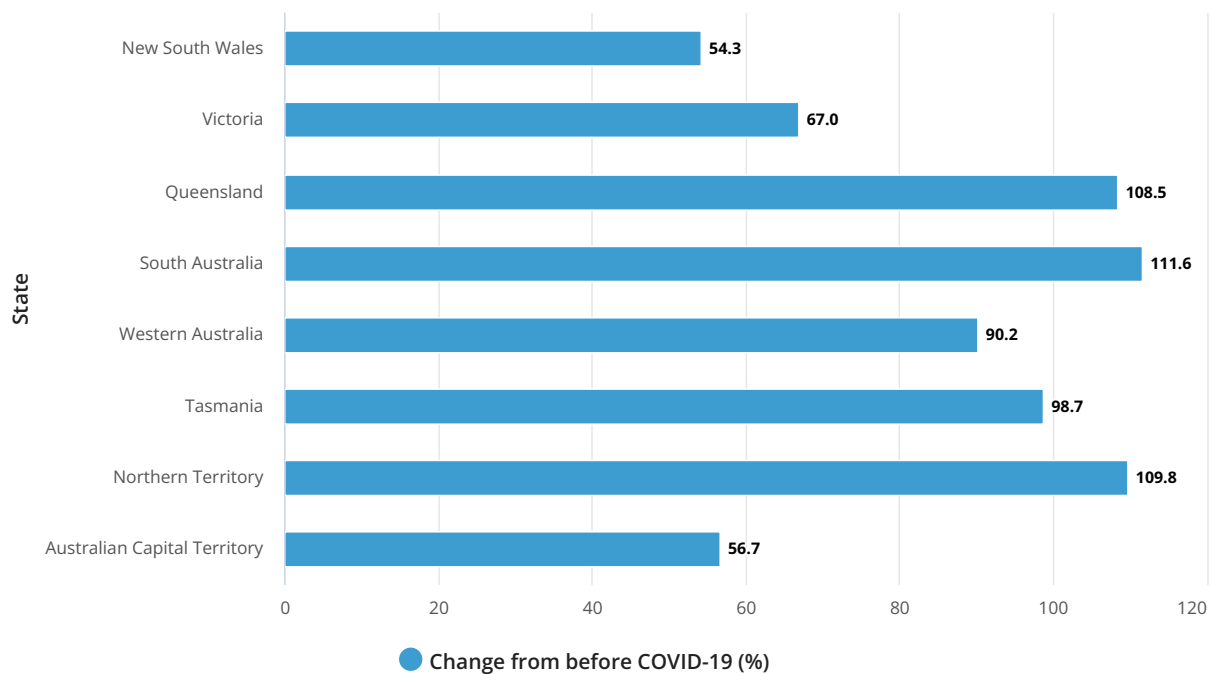


Change in job vacancies, states and territories (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally adjusted)	Australia (Trend)
Change from previous quarter											
May-22	11.6	18.0	2.2	0.0	-1.9	2.8	-8.7	7.5	8.0	12.7	4.3
Aug-22	3.9	5.4	9.1	3.1	-6.8	-16.6	-1.3	-2.9	3.0	-3.5	2.4
Nov-22	-11.8	-7.0	-0.1	0.4	1.9	12.8	-1.7	2.0	-5.2	-1.5	0.0
Feb-23	9.0	-5.9	-0.8	-9.4	-14.8	8.4	-8.4	-5.8	-1.8	-3.2	-3.1
May-23	-11.7	-5.1	-9.3	8.7	4.0	-7.6	-8.3	-1.1	-6.2	-2.5	-4.5
Aug-23	-4.5	-5.2	3.8	-1.0	-4.3	-4.7	-4.8	-8.4	-3.0	-8.9	-5.1
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year											
Aug-21	53.0	77.7	67.5	44.0	61.7	70.0	44.0	42.0	62.0	61.3	32.9
Aug-22	58.4	55.7	21.6	40.3	16.7	8.3	24.9	50.0	41.0	40.7	39.0
Aug-23	-18.8	-21.3	-6.8	-2.1	-13.6	7.7	-21.4	-13.0	-15.3	-15.2	-12.2

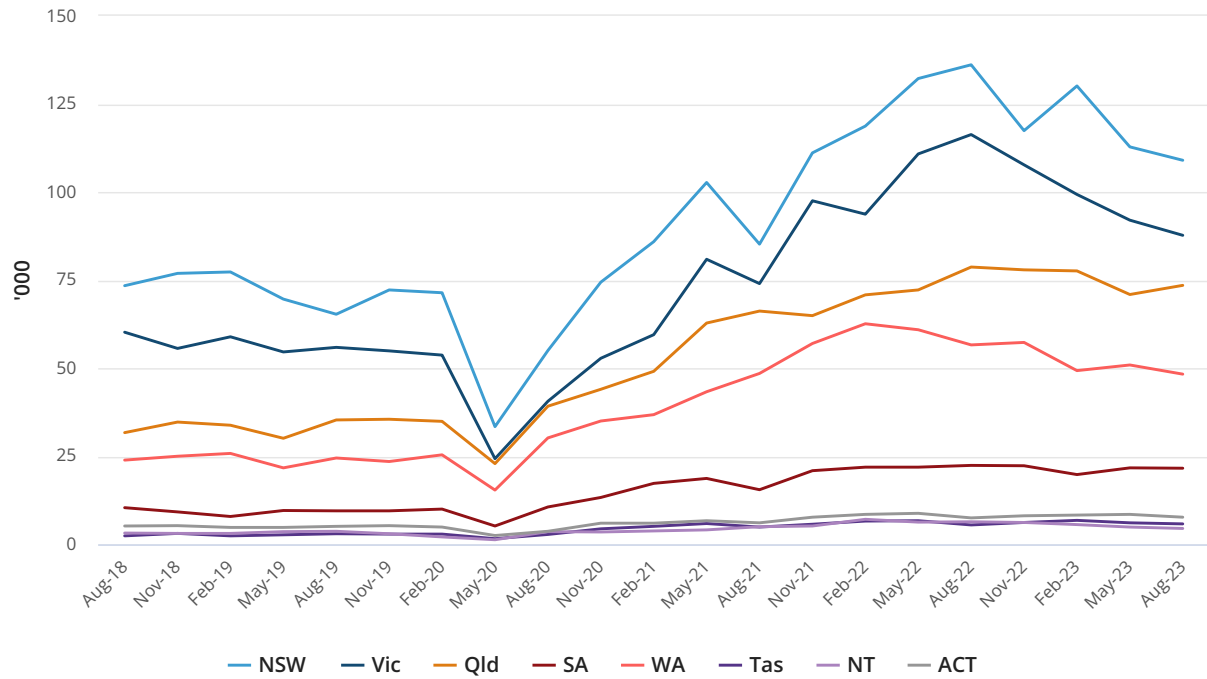
Data refers to original series unless otherwise stated

Job vacancies, change from February 2020 to August 2023, states and territories, original



Private sector

Job vacancies, private sector, states and territories, original



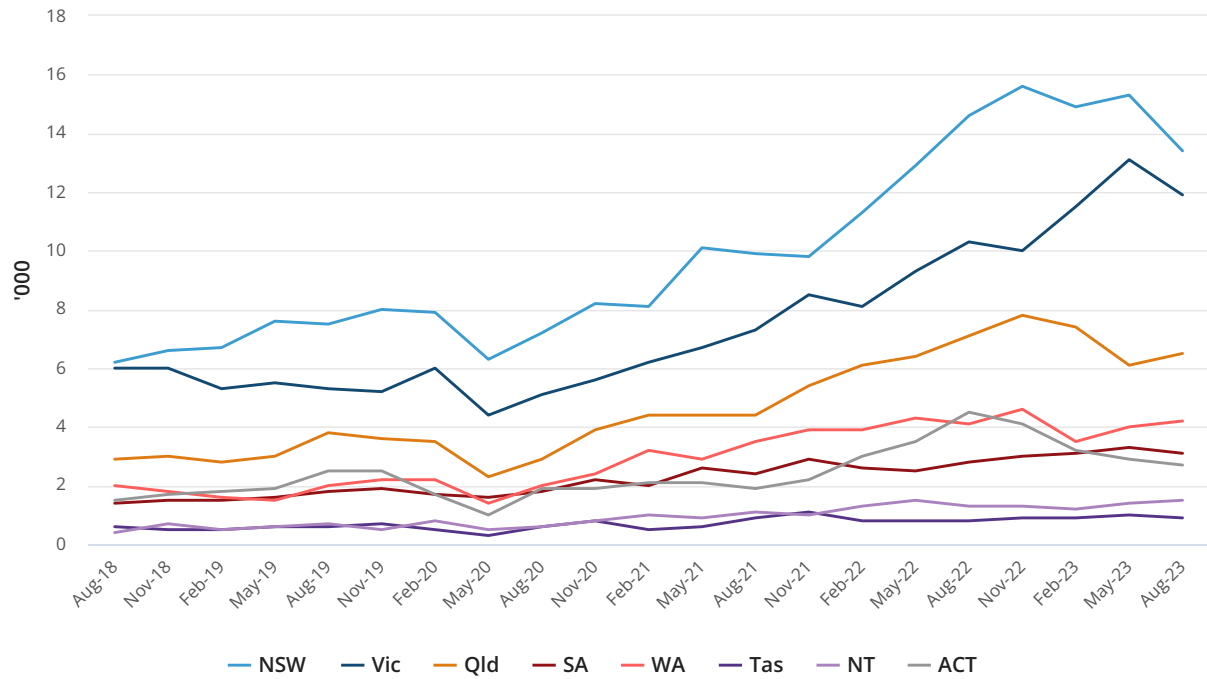
Change in job vacancies, private sector (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally adjusted)	Australia (Trend)
Change from previous quarter											
May-22	11.4	18.2	1.9	0.3	-2.7	2.7	-12.3	3.4	7.7	13.1	3.7
Aug-22	3.0	5.0	8.9	2.1	-7.0	-18.1	1.5	-14.5	2.3	-4.8	1.9
Nov-22	-13.7	-7.4	-1.0	-0.4	1.3	12.1	-2.8	7.8	-6.1	-2.1	-0.5
Feb-23	10.8	-7.8	-0.4	-11.2	-14.1	9.2	-8.7	2.7	-1.6	-3.4	-3.5
May-23	-13.3	-7.4	-8.6	9.4	3.3	-9.6	-13.3	2.4	-7.3	-2.8	-4.8
Aug-23	-3.3	-4.6	3.6	-0.4	-5.0	-4.3	-7.6	-9.0	-2.6	-9.2	-5.4
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year											
Aug-21	55.0	82.3	68.8	46.0	60.8	72.9	39.5	65.1	64.5	63.7	33.7
Aug-22	59.7	57.1	18.8	44.2	16.7	12.3	26.8	23.2	40.6	40.2	38.9
Aug-23	-19.9	-24.6	-6.5	-3.6	-14.6	5.9	-28.9	3.2	-16.6	-16.5	-13.5

Data refers to original series unless otherwise stated

Public sector

Job vacancies, public sector, states and territories, original



Change in job vacancies, public sector (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally adjusted)	Australia (Trend)
Change from previous quarter											
May-22	14.3	15.4	5.4	-2.2	11.4	3.8	11.2	19.2	11.7	8.5	10.0
Aug-22	13.3	10.5	11.4	11.3	-4.4	-3.9	-13.5	26.0	10.2	10.4	7.7
Nov-22	6.6	-3.0	10.0	6.8	10.9	17.5	4.0	-7.8	4.1	4.2	4.6
Feb-23	-4.8	14.7	-5.7	4.3	-23.6	2.7	-7.2	-22.7	-3.5	-1.2	0.2
May-23	2.9	14.7	-17.1	4.6	14.4	7.4	14.7	-10.1	3.1	0.4	-1.9
Aug-23	-12.6	-9.4	5.3	-5.5	4.1	-6.8	4.8	-6.7	-6.5	-6.3	-2.8
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year											
Aug-21	37.3	41.7	50.0	32.4	74.9	55.3	69.3	-2.1	41.0	41.2	25.9
Aug-22	47.4	41.2	62.9	15.3	16.1	-13.6	16.5	136.5	44.6	44.8	40.4
Aug-23	-8.7	15.6	-9.4	10.0	0.9	20.8	15.9	-40.3	-3.2	-3.1	0.0

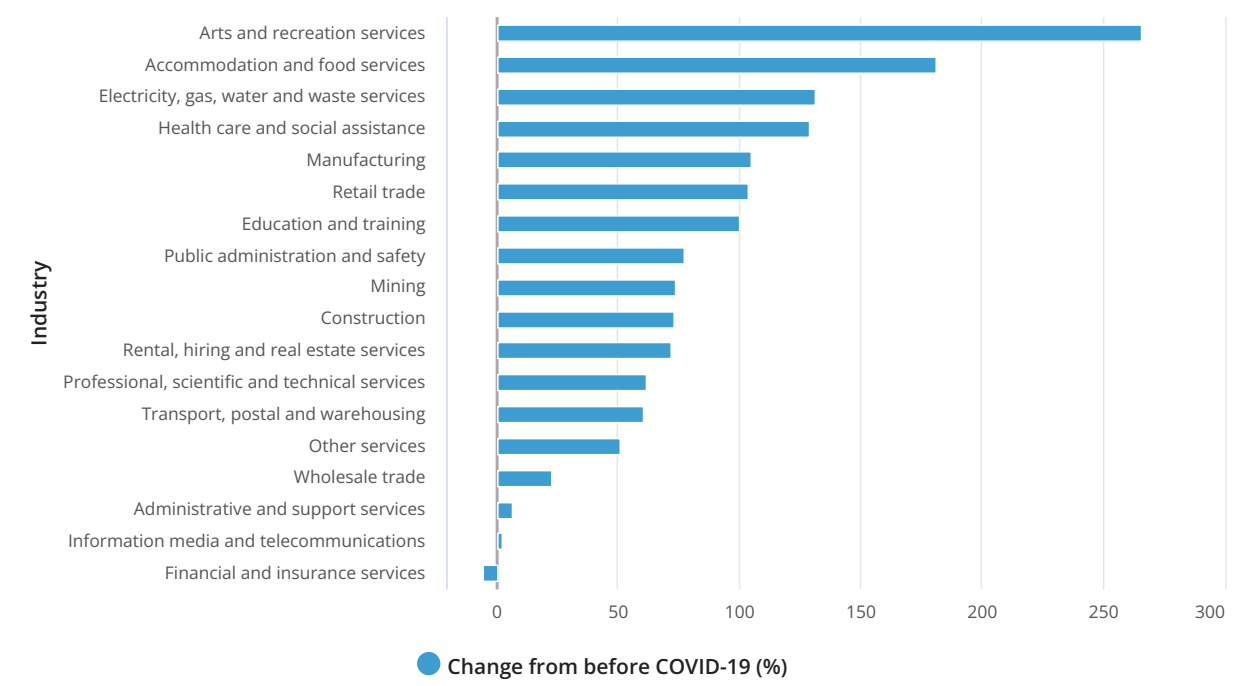
Data refers to original series unless otherwise stated

Industry

Job vacancies, industry, original ('000)

	May-22	Aug-22	Nov-22	Feb-23	May-23	Aug-23
Mining	11.2	10.6	9.8	10.6	11.7	11.4
Manufacturing	28.9	28.3	25.9	25.1	22.6	25.1
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	4.2	4.4	4.5	4.5	4.9	4.9
Construction	39.9	33.5	29.9	31.2	33.1	28.8
Wholesale trade	19.2	20.5	16.6	16.5	15.3	15.5
Retail trade	40.3	46.1	49.9	36.4	32.2	38.5
Accommodation and food services	51.9	59.1	56.3	57.8	42.5	41.4
Transport, postal and warehousing	15.2	17.7	15.4	14.6	13.4	12.1
Information media and telecommunications	5.3	5.4	4.3	3.6	3.8	3.5
Financial and insurance services	20.2	18.6	16.8	14.9	13.4	11.3
Rental, hiring and real estate services	9.7	10.1	9.4	5.9	5.5	5.5
Professional, scientific and technical services	42.9	44.1	40.8	47.6	44.7	42.5
Administrative and support services	38.2	38.0	41.3	38.4	37.5	33.2
Public administration and safety	24.1	27.5	30.1	26.4	22.9	23.6
Education and training	12.7	11.2	11.1	13.5	15.9	15.5
Health care and social assistance	68.9	74.3	62.7	72.4	72.9	68.1
Arts and recreation services	7.2	6.6	7.8	6.6	6.5	7.3
Other services	21.1	18.8	18.0	16.5	16.1	14.2

Job vacancies, change from February 2020 to August 2023, industry, original



Data Downloads

Time series spreadsheets

⬇ Download all (299.79 KB)

Table 1. Job vacancies, states and territories ('000)

⬇ [Download XLSX](#)
[84.19 KB]

Table 2. Job vacancies, private sector, states and territories ('000)

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[93.14 KB]

Table 3. Job vacancies, public sector, states and territories ('000)

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[81.86 KB]

Table 4. Job vacancies, industry, Australia ('000) - original

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Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6354.0.

Methodology

[Job Vacancies, Australia methodology, August 2023](#)